

**Suggested Remarks**  
**USAID Mission Director Jon Lindborg**  
**BIP Turn Over Ceremony**  
**Kaumpurnah Boat Landing and Isabela Drainage**  
**Improvement Project**  
**Isabela City, Basilan Province**  
**01 September 2006**

The Honorable Governor Akbar;  
The Honorable Mayor Tan;  
USAID and GEM Program Colleagues;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure and a privilege to be here with you all today, as we conduct the ceremonial turnover of two barangay infrastructure projects, the Kaumpurnah Boat Landing and the Isabela Drainage Improvement Project.

These facilities are two of 800 small-scale infrastructure and post-harvest facility

projects that USAID, in partnership with the Government of the Philippines, is planning to build by the end of 2007, through our Growth with Equity in Mindanao, or GEM Program.

These types of small facilities, as well as a number of larger infrastructure improvements that we will also support, all aim to help improve the quality of life in the beneficiary communities. They also complement other important efforts that the U.S. Government and our Philippine partners are conducting in the areas of microfinance, improved governance, education, family planning, health and nutrition, environmental management, and renewable energy.

While these simple facilities will provide the residents of Isabel City with a boat landing to facilitate the transport of people and products to and from this area, and an upgraded drainage facility to resolve the perennial flooding of

certain areas in the city, they can also serve a larger purpose. They can demonstrate that the partnership between a community and our two governments -- mutually committed to peace and prosperity in Mindanao -- can achieve true progress, and real results. Thanks to these partnerships, we see before us today concrete expressions of the benefits of peace.

We are truly pleased to be able to help those who are committed to peace and who have the vision to see a brighter tomorrow for this barangay, the City of Isabel, the Province of Basilan, Mindanao and the Philippines.

Thank you.